Moon of Alabama
Where Barflies Get Together

And must have whiskey
Oh, you know why

« On Toilet Paper | Main | 2020 Presidential Election Thread 05 »

March 15, 2020

The *MoA* Week In Review - Open Thread 2020-20

Last week's posts at *Moon of Alabama*:

- Mar 9 - Is The Coronavirus Really More Dangerous Than The Flu?
- Mar 11 - Coronavirus - The Hidden Cases - Why We Must Shut Everything Down And Do It Now
- Mar 13 - News-Nugget About The Coronavirus Pandemic
  Related:
  Comparing the number of obituary notices in a daily newspaper from Bergamo, Italy, February 9 versus March 13: video
  Coronavirus: What are the British up to? - *RTE*
  Must see: Coronavirus: Survival of the Richest! - vid - Jonathan Pie
  Trump tried to bribe the CEO of a German company to give the U.S. the exclusive rights to a SARS-CoV-2 vaccine the firm is developing: Germany tries to stop US from luring away firm seeking coronavirus vaccine - *Reuters*.

- Mar 12 - A Year After The Second MAX Crashed Boeing Is Faced With Ruin
  Related:
  Boeing details final 2019 compensation to Muilenburg and other top execs - *Seattle Times*

- Mar 13 - Why Is The U.S. Launching A New War On Iraq?
- Mar 14 - Iraq's Resistance Reveals How U.S. Troops Will Be Removed From Its Country
  Related:
  We're starting to end endless war in Afghanistan, now let's do Iraq - *Responsible Statecraft*

- Mar 15 - On Toilet Paper

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Other issues:

Manning is free:

Chelsea Manning Supporters Raise A Quarter Million Dollars In Two Days - Caitlin Johnstone

Please use the 2020 Presidential Election Thread for today's debate and other campaign issues.

Use as open thread ...

Posted by b on March 15, 2020 at 17:36 UTC | Permalink

Comments

next page »

thanks for all the news and insights b and others!

filo machado link to one of his albums... upbeat stuff...

Jogral · Filó Machado · Guennoshin

Posted by: james | Mar 15 2020 18:08 utc | 1

More fun with ride share: Hubert Horan

> Uber's "academic research" program was established by David Plouffe and Jonathan Hall in 2014 to allow Uber supporters to assert that major narrative claims were backed by rigorous, independent academic research. In each case, Uber engaged the participation of well known, often brand name economists, who usually were open public supporters of Uber's agenda. The articles were published in journals considered prestigious.Employing academics to consult on corporate PR and lobbying projects isn't necessarily a problem. If Uber had clear evidence of productivity advantages, or higher driver pay, or large consumer welfare benefits, it could publish that evidence under its corporate name and invite independent outsiders to review the evidence and vouch for its legitimacy.The problem is that Uber supported academic research that formally followed the same procedures and standards as independent or university-sponsored research but whose outcome would almost certainly prove useful to its strategy. Uber benefited tremendously not only from journal articles, but also from simplified versions of the articles' findings that were then widely publicized by pro-Uber columnists and think tanks in non-academic channels such as newspapers and internet blogs.This allowed Uber to transform narrowly stated journal claims into much broader, tweetable claims ("academic research proves Uber produces big benefits for drivers") aimed at the same mainstream press and policymakers who Uber's overall PR narratives had been targeted at.
>
> ...
>
> Uber's origin story rests with an extensive 1990s political program conducted by pro-corporate and libertarian think tanks funded by Charles and David Koch. This program was not advocating more liberal taxi regulations, but the same total elimination of any form of public oversight over taxis, including safety and licensing, that Uber later pursued. All of Uber's original PR narratives were taken from this campaign on an almost copy/paste basis.The '90s campaign narratives, repeated across dozens of publications, framed the elimination of taxi oversight as a heroic battle for progress, innovation, and economic freedom that would enable thousands of struggling immigrant entrepreneurs whose desire to drive taxis had been blocked by the "cab cartel" and the corrupt regulators beholden to it. A laissez-faire taxi industry would produce lower fares, reduce wait times, improve service in poorly served neighborhoods, and increase driver jobs and wages. None of these assertions were backed by any objective evidence or analysis.

> The ’90s campaign was designed to create a one-sided debate, with arguments from its well-organized and well-financed supporters overwhelming any counterarguments that the fragmented taxi industry could prepare. The goals of this campaign were not achieved, because it had no local grassroots support and because local officials recognized that the risks of adopting radical changes to longstanding taxi regulations could notbe justified by future benefits that werepurely hypothetical.Uber substituted “technology innovators” into the hero’s role originally occupied by “struggling immigrant entrepreneurs,” but otherwise used the same heroic us-versus-them framing, the same promises of magical gains, and the same demonization of the “evil cab cartel” and corrupt regulators that Uber’s investors needed to vanquish.Uber’s multi-billion dollar investment base effectively weaponized thelaissez-faire claims from the 1990s and ensured that its messaging would totally dominate media coverage. Uber won public opinionbecause its massive subsidies created the false appearance that its technology and regulatory disobedience had actually generated huge public benefits, and its monomaniacal culture intimidated the few journalists and politicians who tried to raise doubts.

Its all about the money...

Posted by: c1ue | Mar 15 2020 18:08 utc | 2

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btw - that is really great news on chelsea manning... david verses goliath type story... yeah people!

Posted by: james | Mar 15 2020 18:09 utc | 3

‘USA <=staged strike on Camp Taji to justify assault on Hashd Sha’abi’

Evan Hollander, told Oilprice.com “No matter how many oil billionaires lose their shirts and call President Trump, House Democrats will stay focused on the real needs of the American people.”

1935 speech by a Marine General Smedley titled ‘War is a Racket.’

“I spent 33 years and four months in active military service and during that period I spent most of my time as a high class muscle man for Big Business, for Wall Street and the bankers. In short, I was a racketeer, a gangster for capitalism. I helped make Mexico and especially Tampico safe for American oil interests in 1914.

Posted by: snake | Mar 15 2020 18:10 utc | 4

Half of the people now treated in hospital in France is below the age of 60.

Posted by: Zanon | Mar 15 2020 18:29 utc | 5

A very interesting bibliography of sources and an interesting essay as well> medium [dot] com "REVEALED: The long-suppressed official report on US biowarfare in North Korea"

Author's articles in this genre extend to Ridgeway admitting to McCloy that since he in Korea had done as horrible things as the nazi's in now in prison, they ought to be released...and stuff on Unit 731.

…………

The CV and the propaganda storm 'round it, in context, looks like ww3 to me, everybody locked up and afraid, a "lost" weapon-germ another coincidence, lookit the big picture.

Posted by: Walter | Mar 15 2020 18:50 utc | 6

As we all know, the “Covid-19 pandemic” has taken over all the airwaves and is generating mass hysteria, with many people promoting all different kinds of theories on how, what, and why it is happening. However, what few have made clear is that the “Covid-19 pandemic” is designed to help implement the agenda of the (((Globalists))) elites that run both the U$ and “Red” China, along with most other countries (with the obvious exception of the five rogue states targeted for regime change). This can be seen by the fact that though the virus is not as deadly as portrayed by the MSM (it mainly kills the Old and Sick), the hysteria is being used to implement key parts of the Domestic U$ agenda i.e. nobody wants to go to malls, restaurants, coffee shops, etc. thus accelerating the destruction of the retail industry, and the elimination of millions more jobs, in favor of the booming E-commerce sector that employees fewer people with higher profit, the paranoia-induced stock market crash has led to another round of QE and stimulus thus making it easier for the DJIA to reach even higher records in the next few months (Stocks will soar tomorrow) along with the fact that most of the relatively small amount of people who will die of this will be Old and/or Sick thus meaning their deaths will be viewed as a net positive for “GDP growth”. Then when we look at the International affect of the “Covid-19 pandemic” we see that one of the hardest hit countries is Iran, one of the five “Rogue states” targeted for regime change, along with the primary target of the Yinon Plan, and it’s also worth noting that Iran seemed to be hit with a “Deadlier strain” that was probably purposely sent to them by “Red” China they their phony belt and road initiative, which instead of helping Iran survive sanctions has given them a disease that will make it easier for (((Them))) to overthrow them, this further proving “Red” Chinas compliance with the (((Agenda))). Speaking of “Red” China, this “outbreak” has helped them kill of many of their oldest and sickest, along with making it easier for them to crackdown on the Uygurs, Tibetans, etc. thus helping “Red” China fufill it’s role as the worlds sweatshop. Another beneficial impact of “Covid-19” for the (((Global elite))) is the resultant crash in Oil prices which puts
further strain on Iran and Venezuela (two rogue states targeted for regime change), along with wreaking the dilapidated and infiltrated, Putin’s Russia, that is covertly controlled by Jewish Oligarchs, who can’t wait for its final collapse and dissolution due to the fact Putin doesn’t have the balls to do what’s needed to save his country (return to Communism or embrace some sort of Traditionalist/Fascist ideology), and is instead to Liberal. In conclusion, this “Covid-19” Pandemic/Paranoia is being used to help implement the Liberal Globalist agenda at every level, and unless some one, organization, or country has the guts to do what needs to be done, their is nothing stoping (((them))) from reaching the final conclusion by the end of this century.

Posted by: King Lear | Mar 15 2020 19:10 utc | 7

King Lear @7

More hasbara crapola from the mad king.

!!

Posted by: Jackrabbit | Mar 15 2020 19:29 utc | 8

JAMA published a retrospective analysis of the Chinese experience
https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jama/fullarticle/2762130
It demonstrated that there is a 12 day lag between “confirmed” cases today and true infections today.
Further review of this study:
https://medium.com/@tomaspueyo/coronavirus-act-today-or-people-will-die-f4d3d9cd99ca
Shows that had China locked down Wuhan just one day earlier, there could have been 40% fewer cases to treat or 32,000 cases. This is the reality of exponential spread.
It also arrives at a correlation of 800 current true infections for each death. So Italy likely has over 1M true infections, as opposed to the 24,000 “confirmed “cases reported today.

Godspeed, all.

Posted by: Wve | Mar 15 2020 19:34 utc | 9

"not as deadly as flu" BUT much more contagious and indeed, more deadly than flu for the 70+ and requesting longer hospitalizations due to respiratory problems

OT
https://www.bbc.com/news/entertainment-arts-51893184

Posted by: Mina | Mar 15 2020 19:37 utc | 10

I read Caitlin's article this morning about Chelsea before finding the link here, and find that to be the best news of the whole month...There's real humanity there! ....and thousands of people anted up to help her out of that miserable judge's fines...

thinking about the whole issue just a bit through the day, I find the american justice system to be totally appalling, from the gross injustice in the incarceration rates of blacks and latinos, to the mistreatment of Manning and Assange, to the utter lack of any bankers, financial fraudsters or mortgage scammers going to jail for the 2007-2008 meltdown in the world financial system etc etc (btw, little Iceland is the only country in the world that I know of that took significant action, and jailed a whole bunch of these free-loading shysters a decade ago)

here's another summary that I also find appalling:

U.S. hospital beds: 924,000
U.S. prison beds: 2,300,000+

viva Chelsea and Julian

Posted by: michaelj72 | Mar 15 2020 19:45 utc | 11

@michaelj72 #11
The hospital beds are more profitable individually, and in aggregate than the prison beds. The prison beds are socialized compared to the hospital beds.

Posted by: c1ue | Mar 15 2020 20:06 utc | 12

Jonathan Pie finally provides an explanation for the run on toilet paper that makes sense.

Posted by: William Gruff | Mar 15 2020 20:14 utc | 13

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according to New York post (take w a grain of salt) the city has given up on containment, contract tracing, etc and is assuming everyone will have passed through a location exposed to it at some point. straight into Triage mode...

https://www.google.com/amp/s/nypost.com/2020/03/15/new-yorkers-should-assume-theyve-been-exposed-to-coronavirus-officials/amp/

Posted by: ptb | Mar 15 2020 20:15 utc | 14

Considering this is the place to talk about things that transpired this week, well...

I just came across the following a few hrs ago,
Event 201 -Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security in partnership with the World Economic Forum and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation hosted Event 201, a high-level pandemic exercise on October 18, 2019, in New York, NY.
With the global stock market crash, travel restrictions, etc, etc, it look's like the 'drill went LIVE' scenario isn't as far fetched as it would seem.

Take-a-look:
Health experts issued an ominous warning about a coronavirus pandemic 3 months ago. The virus in their simulation killed 65 million people. Aria Bendix Jan 23, 2020
https://www.businessinsider.com/scientist-simulated-coronavirus-pandemic-deaths-2020-1?op=1&r=US&IR=T
EVENT 201: Did This 'EVENT' GO LIVE? Wuhan Global Bank Collaboration Jan 23, 2020
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eaVtZB6ku58&feature=youtu.be
And
Event 201 Pandemic Exercise
https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL9-oVXQX88esnrdhaiuRdXGG7XOVYB9Xm
https://duckduckgo.com/?t=ffcm&q=Event+201&ia=web
https://duckduckgo.com/?t=ffab&q=gates+201+pandemic&ia=web

I don't believe in coincidences
X-

Posted by: Veritas X- | Mar 15 2020 20:34 utc | 15

This is a welcomed Trump tweet:

on General Michael Flynn, "I am strongly considering a Full Pardon!

> [.]after destroying his life & the life of his wonderful family (and many others also), the FBI, working in conjunction with the Justice Department, has “lost” the records of General Michael Flynn. How convenient. I am strongly considering a Full Pardon!

and please have one readied for Julian Assange.

FREE Assange after Manning's refusal to testify before the Grand Jury, the prosecutor's case is at the wall.

Posted by: Likklemore | Mar 15 2020 20:38 utc | 16

Veterans Today digging the CoV-released first in the USA angle.

https://www.veteranstoday.com/2020/03/15/china-us-brought-covid19-to-china-during-army-games-hid-disease-in-us-as-influenza/

Posted by: IronForge | Mar 15 2020 20:54 utc | 17

I'm glad that Chelsea survived her latest extended torture session, and hope against hope it's the last one.

I commend and support the genuine grassroots project of paying Chelsea's fines, which is probably the most practical way of removing the bloated and festering albatross corpse hanging around her neck. I do wonder if Chelsea and the donors would be refunded if the legal motion to vacate the fines is successful, but that sounds too much like right.

The judge's comments made me reflect that relatively recent "innovations" in draconian law enforcement and judicial policies, e.g. "coercive" fines and civil asset forfeiture, are *explicitly* created to inflict, er, cruel and unusual punishment.

The Eighth Amendment to the US Constitution prohibits cruel and unusual punishments, but also explicitly mentions “excessive fines” and bail. So an Eighth Amendment challenge to the obscene fines ought to readily succeed.

However, the predatory and malign "law and order" despots and inquisitors who write the draconian laws are surely aware of this remedy, which from their malignant and malicious perspective is a "loophole"-- a weak link in their mailed fist. So I'm sure there is already fine-print language in the applicable laws, and a body of argument and case law that denies and seeks to nullify the plain truth that these punishments are incontrovertibly "cruel and unusual" by definition.

Posted by: Ort | Mar 15 2020 21:07 utc | 18

Brits trying to spread the virus in Cuba
https://edition.cnn.com/travel/article/cruise-ships-stranded-coronavirus-trnd/index.html

Posted by: Mina | Mar 15 2020 21:08 utc | 19

Tom Luungo's been on a roll with his articles lately, and his latest doesn't disappoint: "Putin Unleashes Strategic Hell on the U.S."

Yes, Putin's a great strategist, but he had lots of help from inept players making own-goals. And if you've been watching, Russia's response to COVID-19 is very business-like. Monday will provide a good test. Brent oil continues #$35, WIT @31, while Western Canadian Select is $16.10--no that's not a typo.

I'd also like to remind barflies of the ongoing episodes of the *TASS* interview with Putin that's now up to episode 13, which you can access here.

Posted by: karlof1 | Mar 15 2020 21:24 utc | 20

Worse fears coming true: in Austria, they don't let you go out with a person of your choice just alone or with the persons you live with!
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GIMXekRVnHo
at 19'
I will end up believing BoJo is right and we should let the herd stabilize.

Posted by: Mina | Mar 15 2020 22:04 utc | 21

@16 Likklemore

And how is a pardon for a warhawk Iranophobe Flynn a good thing??? He can rot in prison for his dirty deeds in Iraq and Afghanistan!

Don't mention Manning, a true heroine, or Assange in the same context as that bastard Flynn!

Welcome Trump tweet, MY ASS.

Posted by: Circe | Mar 15 2020 22:07 utc | 22

@Circe 22

> MY ASS

I believe you are in the wrong thread.

Posted by: Norwegian | Mar 15 2020 22:38 utc | 23

Mina 21

I guess that depends on whether you veiw people as domestic animals or communities.
My thought is that if we are communities then the old and young, weak and sick should be looked after rather simply being left behind when they can't keep up. Similar to a family group only larger. Slowing the spread helps ensure those that are hit hard by it recieve adequate medical care, end result being that we do have what is being termed herald immunity but fewer deaths on the way to achieving that. A figure I have not run onto is how many people require medical care as in ventilators IV ect vs deaths. My thought is that without medical caren the numbers requiring ventilators would be the number of deaths.

Posted by: Peter AU1 | Mar 15 2020 22:46 utc | 24

@ Circe 22

You may not agree. Please see the full picture in my comment.

Whatever your opinions of Flynn, a Trump tweet to pardon him is good news. The FBI lied, altered evidence. In the modus wherein Justice must appear to be rendered, It sets up a precedent-out to pardon Assange who also has been railroaded by Sweden at the request of the evil empire, aided by the Brits - jailed on fake charges which were then dropped.

Look at the kangaroo court of Assange's extradition hearings. Those hearings will underscore a pardon for Assange. There was no hack of the DNC and he was improperly charged with espionage.

There is a Bill to amend the 1917 Espionage Act introduced by Oregon Democratic Sen. Ron Wyden in the Senate and California Democratic Rep. Ro Khanna in the House of Representatives. Wyden and Khanna told The Intercept they crafted the legislation to preserve the government’s need for secrecy while strengthening protections for members of the press and expanding legal channels for government whistleblowers."[.]

In closing;
War Criminals and murderers are entitled to due process. Free the innocents.

Posted by: Likklemore | Mar 15 2020 22:46 utc | 25

Yesterday's *Keiser Report* digs into the demise of the PetroDollar, the current make-up of the global financial system, and *Planet Ponzi* with the demise of the Frackers within the Outlaw US Empire--*Bondageddon* being a new term. As I wrote @20, Monday shall prove most interesting. IMO, the overall analysis of the 1% looking frantically for ways to cover their asses while letting everything else burndown thinking they won't get singed is correct. There's already evidence that Trump will attempt to bailout the Frackers just as Obama bailed-out the Banksters, which isn't Capitalism as Max and his guest remark. The EU's situation looks almost as dire as the Outlaw US Empire's.

An excellent question: If Luongo's correct about Putin's choice to let oil extraction levels ride in order to destroy the Frackers, then what might China do at its end of the supply chain to exact retribution on the Outlaw US Empire? As Max relates, the decision to offshore critical pharmaceutical production to China was made during Obama's term, so China has the Empire in a similar spot as the Empire had Japan during 1939-1941.

Posted by: karlof1 | Mar 15 2020 22:47 utc | 26

Yandex has launched its own COVID-19 map, which some may prefer to the Johns Hopkins University COVID-19 map.

Posted by: S | Mar 15 2020 22:48 utc | 27

Timelapse of the War on Syria, March 15, 2011 – March 15, 2020 (vid, 11:49).

Posted by: S | Mar 15 2020 22:54 utc | 28

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karlof1 26 "what might China do at its end of the supply chain to exact retribution"

Retribution I think is the wrong term. I suspect both Russia and China are above the thinking of retribution though at times I would like to see that happen.
I think what they would be looking at are strategical and tactical moves to defang or take down a country that is attacking them so that it can no langer be a danger to their countries.
I don't think things like punishment or reparations or revenge come into it so much.

Posted by: Peter AU1 | Mar 15 2020 22:59 utc | 29

Likklemore @25--

Just about two years ago, both my mom and myself were denied Due Process and she died as a result of being removed from my care. I had no opportunity to sue to get our Due Process rights restored before she died--the State murdered her. What stands as a system of law within the Outlaw US Empire is a crock of shit, with the Supreme Law of the Land being broken every second of every day, while the Criminal Elite get away with their crimes, and in many cases are **rewarded with billions**. Yes, Flynn was subjected to dirty tricks during his prosecution; but before that, he was one of the Criminal Elite and has no honor whatsoever. He's guilty of crimes, although not the ones for which he was arrested, and still merits prison.

Posted by: karlof1 | Mar 15 2020 23:01 utc | 30

It's Sunday evening and, as is the norm, it's the usual time when governments announce the medicine: a pre-emptive!!
And the FUTURES are loving the sugar. The Feds will not wait until Wednesday, 18th. It's time to join the panic.

Fed slashes rates in emergency coronavirus move; U.S. death toll hits 62

> (Reuters) - With panic buying on Main Street and fear-driven sell-offs on Wall Street, the U.S. Federal Reserve cut interest rates to near zero on Sunday in another emergency move to help shore up the U.S. economy amid the rapidly escalating global coronavirus pandemic.
>
> The Fed already cut interest rates by half a percentage point on March 3 at an emergency meeting, the first emergency cut since the financial crisis in 2008. **The central bank said it was cutting rates to a target range of 0% to 0.25%.**
>
> U.S. President Donald Trump called the move “terrific” and “very good news.”

Screw the savers on mainstreet...zero interest rate. Unlikely 0% will restore supply chain disruptions.

Posted by: Likklemore | Mar 15 2020 23:02 utc | 31

Its been a 20 year project to give us the COVID-19 hysteria that will end freedom once and for all. I thought I'd provide a timeline, done mostly gor myself but might as well share (from various sources). First half is here

2000-2009 ROAD TO CORONA

2000- Gavi is created. An international organisation - a global Vaccine Alliance, bringing together public and private sectors with the shared goal of creating equal access to new and underused vaccines for children living in the world's poorest countries. The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation pledged US$ 750 million to set up Gavi

2002 -Godfather of corona virus (Ralph Baric of UNC) patents process for a coronavirus vaccine.

2003 (February) JASON group (scientific think tank) issues DARPA funded study report on Biotetection Architectures stating

JASON considered the essential components and operation of an effective strategy for homeland biodefense based on technologies that are currently available or likely to become available within the next five years..... biosensors should be deployed in a focused manner as one component of a broader biodetection architecture that also includes information derived from intelligence gathering and medical surveillance. The local analysis team also should be responsible for directing an appropriate response in the event of a bioterrorism attack. They will be guided by a pre-established "playbook" that recommends particular responses for a particular set of circumstances, which will have been practiced and refined through staged exercises.

Medical surveillance is the single most important component of a biodetection architecture. It relies on the American people as a network of 288 million mobile sensors with the capacity to self-report exposures of medical consequence to a broad range of pathogens.....They will be guided by a pre-established "playbook" that recommends particular responses for a particular set of circumstances, which will have been practiced and refined through staged exercises.

It is essential to conduct realistic exercises of a biodetection architecture in order to assess technical capabilities and refine operational procedures .... useful exercise(s) should entail pre-defined tests of the system through a series of staged events. These tests will require careful planning, extensive participation by the local community, and follow-up analysis by an external panel of experts."

Hmmm. Staged exercises......

2003-SARS coronavirus released in China

2003 After the SARS outbreak Shi Zhengli led a team to collect bat samples across the country for virus detect the Corona viruses

2005- Biodefense and Pandemic Vaccine and Drug Development Act of 2005 (S. 1873), nicknamed "Bioshield Two" and sponsored by Senator Richard Burr (R-North Carolina), aims shorten the pharmaceutical development process for new vaccines and drugs in case of a pandemic, and to protect vaccine makers and the pharmaceutical industry from legal liability for vaccine injuries. The bill would create a new federal agency, the Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Agency (BARDA), that would act "as the single point of authority" to promote advanced research and development of drugs and vaccines in response to bioterrorism and natural disease outbreaks, while shielding the agency from public Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests. BARDA would be exempt from long-standing open records and meetings laws that apply to most government departments.

The Public Readiness and Emergency Preparedness Act (PREPA),signed into law by George W. Bush in December, 2005, is a tort liability shield intended to protect vaccine manufacturers from financial risk in the event of a declared public health emergency. The act specifically affords to drug makers immunity from potential financial liability for clinical trials of avian influenza vaccine at the discretion of the Executive branch of government. PREPA strengthens and consolidates the oversight of litigation against pharmaceutical companies under the purview of the secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS). PREPA provides $3.8 billion for pandemic influenza preparedness to protect public health in the case of a pandemic disease outbreak

2007-The AMC is a special financing mechanism set up in 2007 by GAVI and six donors (Italy, the United Kingdom, Canada, the Russian Federation, Norway, and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation) to stimulate development of vaccines.

Global Alliance for vaccines and immunisations (GAVI) established in 2000 with funding by Bill Gates has on its governing board many pharma industry representatives, and this group sets the global price for vaccines, stimulates needs and using public money and money from “donors” is highly involved in the vaccine process.

2008-Biolake established in Wuhan. Biolake has become home to more than 1,800 bio firms and over 50,000 highly-skilled professionals, with annual output exceeding 120 billion yuan ($17.76 billion).

2008-The Thousand Talents Program (TTP) was established by the central government of China to recognize and recruit leading international experts in scientific research, innovation, and entrepreneurship. The program has three categories:
* Innovative 1000 Talents plan (Long term / Short term) – for Chinese scholars below 55 years of age
* Foreign 1000 Talents plan (Long term / Short term) – for foreigners only below 55 years of age
* Young scholar 1000 Talents plan or Overseas Young Talents Project of China- for those below 40 years of age

TTP is alleged to facilitate economic espionage and theft of intellectual property to be used by China’s military-civil sectors which like the US is interlocked

As for Dec, 2019 more than 16,000 researchers/scientists have returned to China after studying/employment. More than 4,500 left the United States for China in 2017 - nearly double the number who left in 2010.

2009-H1N1 Pandemic Scare in spring through fall

2009-Obama Care passed in December

Posted by: Pft | Mar 15 2020 23:08 utc | 32

@27

thanks for sharing the map.

looking at the Yandex SARS-Cov-2 map ... there is still no data for N.Korea ... and it seems no one is talking about NK.

remember in the early days of the epidemic ... Trump specifically offered to "help" NK ... but NK has a news blackout it seems, so we really don't know what is happening there. Dr. John Campbell's channel just mentions NK has been "burning bodies" in one of his Feb updates.

Posted by: r | Mar 15 2020 23:10 utc | 33

@25 Likklemore

War Criminals and murderers are entitled to due process. Free the innocents.

He was NEVER tried for those crimes! Therefore he deserves to suffer, injustice or whatever! I don't give a shet about his type's due process when he was never indicted on war crimes to begin with!

I don't care how life makes him pay as long as he pays! So fcuk the welcome tweet!

@23 Norwegian

Uh...Butt out. I'm being kind.

Posted by: Circe | Mar 15 2020 23:12 utc | 34

@Peter AU1 #24:

> A figure I have not run onto is how many people require medical care as in ventilators IV ect vs deaths. My thought is that without medical caren the numbers requiring ventilators would be the number of deaths.

According to virusncov.com, out of 83,117 cases which had an outcome, 92.2% have recovered and 7.8% have died, while out of 86,058 currently infected patients, 93.1% are in mild condition and 6.9% are in serious or critical condition. On the surface of it, this suggests that ventilators/IVs don’t work at all.

Posted by: S | Mar 15 2020 23:15 utc | 35

Peter AU1 | Mar 15 2020 22:59 utc | 29 I tend to agree with PeterAU1, it's not a matter of emotion, but of attempting to pass through the collapse or phase changes of a failed empire - a classically dangerous time always, but never before in history has this taken place with a globally integrated econo and atomics and up against the "Jevons-Limits" (see "Jevons' Paradox), never mind a mad Imperial Stage of Fools, Clowns, and Perverts.

Empire, as did the USSR, contains intrinsic internal singularities, "contradictions" or "exceptions" - Kennan's "Long Telegram" advised a Policy of waiting, of curating the internal contradictions of USSR, while containing it - Gospodin Putin and Comrade "Chin" are, quite rationally, doing more or less the same thing.

I would moot, in re retribution, the example of "The trial of Unit 731
By RUSSELL WORKING Special to The Japan Times."

And some individuals do have emotion - (from citation) ("If I saw a Japanese on the street today and I were
young again, I would kill him.")) that's politically important....so my friend Dr Karlof1's question does raise a factor. That's a matter for CCP at the celestial level...their people may indeed demand retribution - I dunno.

....

As to pardons...one may or may not accept a pardon. Accepting a pardon is an admission of guilt. It in theory opens the door to civil suits in Tort Law...or so my banging into law professors taught me.

But put the Pardon in perspective too..read the citation above about unit 741 MacArthur let "ours" go, and probably Stalin made a similar deal.

Best to you all.

Posted by: Walter | Mar 15 2020 23:20 utc | 36

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likklemore is being optimistic... now that sanders is toast, circe is being overly cynical.. oh well...

Posted by: james | Mar 15 2020 23:27 utc | 37

@ 29 peter au... i agree with your take too... not all countries and leadership are completely nuts..

Posted by: james | Mar 15 2020 23:29 utc | 38

Peter AU 1 @29--

Retribution's the wrong term. Lets try the phrase, "Letting them know who's boss" as in has the leverage geoeconomically. Here's a passage from Luongo's article:

"By noon on the 12th the Fed announced $1.5 trillion in new repo facilities including three-month repo contracts. At one point during trading that day the entire U.S. Treasury market went bidless. **There was no one out there making an offer for the most liquid, sought-after financial assets in the world.**

"Why? Prices were so high, no one wanted them." [My Emphasis]

We can look at the ongoing QE as the proverbial hangman's rope with which the central bankers will hang themselves. Max's guest Mitch Feierstein wrote *Planet Ponzi* and runs a website with that name, and is certainly not the first to say the Fed must be busted; yet, he's no radical. He's an honest insider proven by the fact that he's deeply concerned that things will get much worse.

It'll be interesting to see just how quickly the emptied store shelves across the Outlaw US Empire get refilled--I saw many on Saturday when I went out to buy perishables but no TP.

Posted by: karlof1 | Mar 15 2020 23:30 utc | 39

: karlof1 | Mar 15 2020 23:30 utc | 39

restock? well, I'd wonder about that...what, in a situation of shortage, will price look like? And, similarly, what, in situation of shortage, will pocketbooks look like> And then there's the flood buckies from duhFed... Weimar? I dunno...

In the fullness of time I'd expect regions to request help from Ru and CCP...that'd be an admission of whozboss... That possibility is of course not within the "Overton Window" (SP?), but it seems to exist. It'd be dicey thing to do, but liable to happen...he'll be accused of collaboration...but the need would remain, so he'd be followed untill it happened...a regional event, and probably cascade.

Posted by: Walter | Mar 15 2020 23:43 utc | 40

2010-2014 ROAD TO CORONA

2010-Study by Rockefeller Foundation on impact of a coronavirus like pandemic on society and governance, . One scenario envisioned is “Lock Step: A world of tighter top-down government control and more authoritarian leadership, with limited innovation and growing citizen pushback.”

2010 -Shi Zhengli’s team published a paper to examine the sensitivity of different types of bat ACE2 to human SARS-CoV spike protein (S protein) using live SARS virus and HIV (AIDS) pseudovirus.

This research, and even the earlier research by Li et. al., reported in Nature in 2003, showed that the molecule called “angiotensin-converting enzyme 2 (ACE2 molecules)” is “a functional receptor for SARS-CoV” transmissible to humans. This ACE2 was found in the blood of some bats, M. daubentoni and R. sinicus, and was “likely to be susceptible to SARS-CoV” transmissions to humans, and “may be candidates as the natural host of the SARS-CoV progenitor viruses.”

In other words, ten-twenty years ago, studies were underway to isolate the precise molecular biology administering cross-infectivity of SARS and AIDS-virus attachment mechanisms enabling human transmissions and susceptibility to mutagenic coronavirus bioweapon functions.

2010- DARPA and NIH funded review on Synthetic Viruses published. Abstract reveals

“Rapid progress in DNA synthesis and sequencing is spearheading the deliberate, large-scale genetic alteration of organisms. These new advances in DNA manipulation have been extended to the level of whole-genome synthesis, as evident from the synthesis of poliovirus, from the resurrection of the extinct 1918 strain of influenza virus and of human endogenous retroviruses and from the restructuring of the phage T7 genome..... As genome synthesis is independent of a natural template, it allows modification of the structure and function of a virus’s genetic information to an extent that was hitherto impossible.

..... Sequencing a DNA in the megabase (Mb) range is no longer a daunting undertaking and, applying the most advanced technology, can be accomplished within less than a week. DNA synthesis has not yet advanced to the efficiency of DNA sequencing, but synthesizing DNA of 8–30 kilobase pairs (kbp)—the genome size of most RNA viruses and many DNA viruses—can be accomplished easily and is largely a matter of available resources.

It is not surprising, therefore, that the de novo synthesis of viral genomes in the absence of a natural template has found its way into studies of viruses, although this branch of virology is still in its infancy.....

In the future, large-scale changes will be introduced into numerous viruses, allowing the creation of redesigned particles that can provide new insights into biology or the design of new vectors that can prevent or cure infectious diseases, cure genetic deficiencies by delivering genes or treat cancer through oncolytic mechanisms, to name but a few applications.”

Of course, new viruses can also be weaponized.

In 2011, Professor Lieber , Harvard Department Chair joined Wuhan University of Technology in China as a scientist. He also participated in the Thousand Talents Plan. He was given more than $1.5m to establish a research lab at Wuhan University of Technology and, in return, was expected to work for the university, applying for patents and publishing articles in its name.

2012-Wuhan, capital of Central China's Hubei province, aims to become a leading city in terms of applying technology to improve the lives of its citizens, the vice-mayor of the city said. Shao Weimin, the vice-mayor of Wuhan, made the remarks during a speech to the 2012 Smart City Expo World Congress held from Nov 13 to 15 in Barcelona, Spain.

2013-MERS-CoV released. First known case was in Jordan (retrospectively) but announced during outbreak in Saudi Arabia some months later in September

2013-Boston Marathon Bombing

October 30, 2013, Nature magazine published a paper entitled “Isolation and characterization of a bat SARS-like Coronavirus that uses the ACE2 receptor“, from the research team including Ge Xingyi, Shi Zhengli, Dasak and other experts from Yunnan. The entire genome sequence of the new coronaviruses RsSHC014 and Rs3367 isolated from the chrysanthemum bat (horse hoof bat). Shi Zhengli provided the SHC014 Coronavirus S protein sequence and plasmid, which is her field of expertise.

2013 In February, the US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) announced that it would restart funding for research projects around the world focused on making new, deadlier, more contagious strains of avian influenza, better known as "bird flu" or "avian flu." Researchers working in this area argue genetically modifying the virus to make it spread more easily in mammals such as humans is "essential for pandemic preparedness," by revealing in advance how the wild virus could potentially mutate.

Researchers around the world working to develop new strains temporarily suspended their work voluntarily last year, and the US government followed in halting funding, after a vocal outcry from other scientists that the published results of such research could be weaponized by terrorists, or that new strains could accidentally infect the public. Despite these concerns, the moratorium on research of more infectious bird flu strains ended in January.

President Obama in March signed a law giving $2.8 billion in funding to a decade-old biodefense effort called "Project Bioshield," extending it for another five years. The effort's main goal was to help the US government rapidly build up a national stockpile of drugs collectively known as "medical countermeasures" — vaccines, antidotes and other treatments — that could be quickly administered to the public right before or in the event of a bioterror attack.

The Department of Homeland Security uses intelligence reports to decide which diseases and biological threats are considered "material," or realistic threats to US security. It then refers these findings to Health and Human Services (HHS), which determines whether it's necessary for the government to order new drugs from pharmaceutical companies to combat the threats.

In order to spur pharmaceutical companies to develop these drugs fast enough, a funding agency within HHS called the Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority (BARDA) hands out lucrative contracts, parts of which can be paid up front. It also offers avenues to speed up the drug approval process, and guarantees certain purchase amounts.

The fact that the very same parent agency (HHS) in charge of funding drugs for the national stockpile, is also the one that is separately funding research into new diseases that could result in a bioterror or accidental infection, which would in turn demand a response from the national stockpile.

Sounds like a racket

2014 Shi Zhengli received a $665,000 grant from NIH for a study titled The Ecology of Bat Coronaviruses and the Risk of Future Coronavirus Emergence (NIAID R01 AI1 10964) as well as $559,500 more from USAID for a study titled Emerging Pandemic Threats PREDICT_2China (Project No. AID-OAA-A-14-00102).

2014 - The federal government temporarily stopped funding any new studies that could make three high-risk infectious diseases even more dangerous. The government is asking all scientists involved in this research now to voluntarily halt their current studies. The White House Office of Science and Technology Policy said that the government will launch a review of the potential risks and benefits of certain experiments with three viruses: SARS, MERS and influenza. The concern is that so-called gain-of-function studies would probe how these viruses work by altering them in ways that could make them more pathogenic or contagious.

Scientists have been arguing about the wisdom of doing such experiments ever since two studies of the H5N1 bird flu virus created mutant forms that could potentially spread between people and cause a pandemic, if they ever got out of the lab

September 25 2015-the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was adopted at the United Nations Sustainable Development Summit .

The hidden agenda is extermination of how we live, our freedom and independence, while taking control over resources. From housing, health care, energy, use of water, and others, data will be captured and monitored through 5G and IOT, determining resource production, how resources will be distributed for consumption, what we consume, and what we are doing in our daily lives.

That is the reason for the advancement of 5G without concern or studying health effects . For data collection and sharing, 5G connectivity is needed for monitoring everything, and everyone.

Using electronic health records healthcare professionals will be forced out if certain medical practices are not followed like mandatory vaccinations, education will only be delivered through software curriculum created by a UN partner such as Bill Gates Microsoft or textbook publisher Pearson, or housing developments built to monitor water usage. Every aspect of life with be controlled by technocracy.

.We will be forced to acquiesce to technocratic demands as they gain control using manufactured crisis such as pandemics, economic crashes, terrorism, threats of war between large nations, etc. All will be and have been staged and carefully managed with prepared solutions ready to be implemented on the populations who will readily accept them believing it will make them safer (on the contrary)

Posted by: Pft | Mar 15 2020 23:43 utc | 41

@r #33:

> NK has a news blackout it seems, so we really don't know what is happening there. Dr. John Campbell's channel just mentions NK has been "burning bodies" in one of his Feb updates.

You can find news articles on COVID-19 in the Health-Education section on the Korean Central News Agency’s website. Here are the news from the past week:

> **Noble Trait Displayed in Preventing COVID-19**

Pyongyang, March 9 (KCNA) -- Amid an anti-virus campaign for preventing COVID-19 in the DPRK, the beautiful trait of helping and leading each other forward has been fully displayed among its people.

Officials of party and power organs, working people's organizations and many other units in different parts of the country, including North Hamgyong Province, Nampho City and North Phyongan Province, voluntarily offered food, foodstuffs and clothes to those persons in quarantine.

In particular, Chollima and Kangso district party committees in Nampho City provided those in quarantine with nutritive foodstuffs and daily necessaries as well as birthday spreads.

Such noble trait was also displayed party and administrative officials and prosecutors in Jagang Province, who have shown deep care for the life of persons in quarantine.

Pyongyang Old People's Home

Pyongyang, March 10 (KCNA) -- Disinfection is conducted at the Pyongyang Old People's Home to prevent COVID-19.

Campaign for Preventing COVID-19 Brisk in DPRK

Pyongyang, March 10 (KCNA) -- More strict measures are being taken in the DPRK to prevent COVID-19.

Quarantine places have been tightly closed and such hygienic measures as ventilation and disinfection taken in the places.

The state urged the relevant units to strictly observe the regulations in dealing with waste water from the quarantine places and disinfect their surroundings in a responsible way, while tightening the control of all transport means staying at the border passing spots and coming into territorial waters, air and land.

And relevant units are required to prevent the overflowing of slop pail from the vessels quarantined in the territorial waters of the country and the lower Taedong River.

In particular, they have strengthened the control for making vessels in quarantine at temporary berths not to throw sewage into the Taedong River and territorial waters.

Central Mushroom Research Institute

Pyongyang, March 11 (KCNA) -- The Central Mushroom Research Institute under the Ministry of Agriculture in the DPRK takes thorough measures for preventing COVID-19.

Strict Top-Class Anti-Epidemic Measures Enforced in DPRK

Pyongyang, March 13 (KCNA) -- The nationwide anti-epidemic work to prevent the inroads of COVID-19 has been intensified in response to the spirit of the enlarged meeting of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea.

Inspection and quarantine of imports are being tightened.

The inspection and quarantine units at all levels in Pyongyang and local areas carry out thoroughgoing inspection and disinfection of vehicles, vessels and goods, and leave imports in natural state of tight closure for 10 days before handing them over to relevant units according to proper procedure and order.

> Amid the stricter enforcement of the nationwide top-class anti-epidemic measures, foreigners, returnees from abroad, contacts and other personnel under medical observation are freed from quarantine according to directives of the Central Emergency Anti-epidemic Headquarters.
>
> The DPRK has further intensified quarantine and medical observation of foreigners entering the DPRK, and has freed over 70 foreigners without suspected symptoms from quarantine.
>
> Over 990 people were freed from quarantine in North Phyongan Province and above 720 in South Phyongan Province.
>
> Officials of the Party and power organs and working people's organizations and those in the fields of public health and anti-epidemic control across the country have boosted the hygienic information service about the worldwide spread of COVID-19 and preventive and treatment measures among the people, so that they should never feel relieved for having no COVID-19 case in the DPRK.
>
> **Material Measures Taken to Prevent Viral Epidemic in DPRK**
>
> Pyongyang, March 13 (KCNA) -- Material measures have been taken in various parts of the DPRK to prevent viral epidemics.
>
> North Phyongan Province is further tightening the system of lock-down, check, observation and information against COVID-19 along the border area, while producing lots of antiseptic solution every day for thorough disinfection.
>
> Province-level units have recently produced hundreds of thousands of hygienic, anti-epidemic and medical goods and medicines and supplied them to residents.
>
> Officials of units at all levels in Jagang Province have made tangible contributions to furthering the material and technical foundation for hygienic and anti-epidemic work by preparing equipment for examination of water and vehicles.
>
> Institutions at provincial and city levels in South Phyongan Province provided a large amount of fuel, electric-power generating motors, food, bedclothes and non-staple foods, etc. to provincial, city and county anti-epidemic institutions and quarantine places on several occasions.
>
> The hygienic and anti-epidemic centers and public health organs in South Hwanghae Province built a base for producing antiseptic solution with their own efforts to satisfy the needs and take measures for enough supply of medicines and medical consumption goods like protective medical clothing, goggles and overshoes.
>
> Provinces such as North Hwanghae Province, Kangwon Province and Ryanggang Province also push ahead with supply of materials as required by the ongoing all-out anti-epidemic campaign.

Posted by: S | Mar 15 2020 23:59 utc | 42

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karlof1

It will be interesting to see how the US survives this. Trump has put a lot of effort into further inflating the wall street bubble. Energy dominance I believe was a big part of MAGA. US had proved itself to be an ongoing threat to Russia long before Trump. Trump has now ensured that China must also see the US as a threat so now we both Russia and China in a strategic partnership to act against that threat. At the moment I lean towards coronavirus to be a natural occurrence - a black swan event.

China and Russia are far better positioned to handle the black swan, but US riding on its stock market and debt bubble is not. House of cards vs houses of brick type of thing. Then through in Putins move with the oil, and I guess between Russia and China there will be a few more moves to come if required.
The interesting times we are living in have gone up a level in interesting.

Posted by: Peter AU1 | Mar 16 2020 0:01 utc | 43

Just an extra thought on the oil. Trump, once he had taken control of MBS was quite happy to publicly humiliate MBS and let the world know MBS was his dog. I don't think MBS would have appreciated that. MBS and the old king have been to Moscow once or twice. First for Saudi's. Putin has been to Riyadh - not that long back if I recall correctly. US buy very little oil off Saudi Arabia and China is now the worlds largest oil importer.
There is the possibility that the oil moves against the US are a joint effort.

Posted by: Peter AU1 | Mar 16 2020 0:11 utc | 44

@42

appreciated ... thanks.

Posted by: r | Mar 16 2020 0:37 utc | 45

Walter @40--

I'll be getting all the restocking info 2nd hand as I'm only going for walks along the seashore until April rolls around. The local economy's still functioning, albeit at a much slower velocity, although it appears we'll still be very busy over Spring Break, my locale being a vacation destination. I ought to rehone my surf perch fishing skills since that's a sport I can participate in without fear of contamination. The County government made it much easier for its people to stay home over this extended Spring Break, still get paid and not have to use whatever sick and vacation time they've accrued--something Congress Morally Failed to do for all as I reported a few days ago. The seas are forecast to be quite nice for mid-March and I thought of taking a charter, but I doubt I'll do so. Along with walking the shoreline, I'll probably do some outdoors work--weeding, gutter cleaning and such--since I seem to need some reflection. Might even enjoy my deck for the first time this year since the sun's supposed to shine. And I'll haunt MoA some too.

Posted by: karlof1 | Mar 16 2020 0:38 utc | 46

SWEDEN SURRENDERS TO CORONAVIRUS

Global Times, March 13, 2020

Swedish officials decided on March 12th to stop providing statistics on confirmed cases of the new coronavirus disease. The country will no longer test patients with mild symptoms or suspected cases. An official in Stockholm said it was no longer possible to stop the spread of the coronavirus outbreak in Sweden. The country's public health agency said it would use limited resources for high-risk groups such as medical staff and hospitalized patients.

Sweden is the first European country to openly surrender to the coronavirus epidemic. The country's new policy is highly irresponsible both for protecting the health of the Swedish population and for cooperation in fighting the pandemic. A total of 635 cases were diagnosed in Sweden by March 12th, of which 135 cases were newly added on the 12th. This is a very serious situation for a country with a population of 10.12 million.

However, in terms of the level of public health resources in Sweden, it is far from being exhausted. In Hubei Province, China, there have been many cities with a population much smaller than Sweden and medical standards lower than Sweden. There have been many more cases than in Sweden at present, but those cities did not given up, but instead reduced new cases to zero.

Sweden did not even attempt to control the further spread of the virus. It simply gave up its comprehensive resistance to the epidemic, narrowed its efforts only to hospitals, and only protected patients and medical staff. Laissez-faire is a serious departure from the rules of combating epidemics.

Sweden is hiding its head in the sand. In this way, the epidemic will spread in the Swedish population. More and more critical patients will be hospitalized, and the country's medical system will be put under more pressure.

Promoting such a decision is a serious violation of humanitarian principles, and it is shocking to see it first happen in a developed European country that advertises "democracy" and "human rights."

Sweden is opening the floodgates containing the pandemic. It means that in Sweden the coronavirus epidemic will progress unrestricted and most cases will lose epidemiological tracking. Sweden will become a black hole in the international fight against the epidemic, a hotbed for virus accumulation and spread to other areas.

In the future, Sweden will pose a huge risk that is difficult to assess for Europe and the wider region. There are many more cases in other countries, but at least information is reliable, while Sweden will become a complete mess.

The international community, especially the European Union, should severely condemn Sweden's surrender to the virus. If Sweden's approach is accepted, the world's already fragile anti-epidemic front will further break and collapse, and the long-term consequences will be unimaginable.

Source: *Social comment: Sweden's surrender to the new coronavirus will harm its people* - Global Times, March 13, 2020
社评：瑞典向新冠病毒投降将害人害己
https://opinion.huanqiu.com/article/9CaKrnKpTyx
Translated by Google and Petri Krohn

Posted by: Petri Krohn | Mar 16 2020 0:46 utc | 47

This is interesting.
I looked up Remdesivir which showed the most promise as an anti viral with in vitro testing and is now being trialed on patients in China.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Remdesivir
On 9 October 2015, the United States Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases (USAMRIID) announced encouraging preclinical results that the GS-5734 compound had blocked the Ebola virus in Rhesus monkeys. The West African Ebola virus epidemic lasted from 2013 to 2016. Travis Warren, who has been USAMRIID's principal investigator since 2007, said that the "work is a result of the continuing collaboration between USAMRIID and Gilead Sciences.[9] The "initial screening" of the "Gilead Sciences compound library to find molecules with promising antiviral activity" was performed by scientists at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention(CDC).[9] As a result of this work, it was recommended that GS-5734 "should be further developed as a potential treatment." Their findings were presented at the annual Infectious Diseases Society of America's (IDSA) IDWeek conference held at the San Diego Convention Center from 7 to 11 October.[9] and published in the journal Nature.[10] The Ebola research was conducted in the Department of Defense's Biosafety Level 4 maximum containment USAMRIID laboratories, the only DoD organization with maximum Level 4 capabilities.[9] The research was funded by the Defense Threat Reduction Agency and by the DoD's Medical Countermeasure Systems Joint Project Management Office.[9]

SARS-CoV-2
In response to the 2019–20 coronavirus outbreak induced by coronavirus SARS-CoV-2, Gilead provided remdesivir for a "small number of patients" in collaboration with Chinese medical authorities for studying its effects.[19]

Gilead also started laboratory testing of remdesivir against SARS-CoV-2. Gilead stated that remdesivir was "shown to be active" against SARS and MERS in animals.[3][20]

In late January 2020, remdesivir was administered to the first US patient to be confirmed to be infected by SARS-CoV-2, in Snohomish County, Washington, for "compassionate use" after he progressed to pneumonia. While no broad conclusions were made based on the single treatment, the patient's condition improved dramatically the next day,[7] and he was eventually discharged.[21]

Also in late January 2020, Chinese medical researchers stated to the media that in exploratory research considering a selection of 30 drug candidates, remdesivir and two other drugs, chloroquine and lopinavir/ritonavir, seemed to have "fairly good inhibitory effects" on SARS-CoV-2 at the cellular level. Requests to start clinical testing were submitted.[22][23] On February 6, 2020, a clinical trial of remdesivir began in China.[24]"

Posted by: Peter AU1 | Mar 16 2020 0:53 utc | 48

From Pepe Escobar's Facebook page 10 hrs ago:

"THE KEY TO THE COVID-19 HIGHWAY IN 30 SECONDS
Xi knew. From the start. He knew China was under attack. A Hybrid War attack. No wonder he said, on the record, this was war. A 'people's war' had to be launched as a counter-attack. And – crucially - Covid-19 was 'the devil'. Xi is a Confucianist. There's no 'devil' in Confucianism. In a Chinese cultural context, 'devil' means 'white devils' or 'foreign devils'. Gweilo, in mandarin. It's easy to do the math."

Peter AU 1 @43/44--

Black Swan or People's War. Whatever the case, the web's getting tauter and more complex. But, which player's the spider? Gaia?

Wow! Hudson shows up at 11 March *Unz Review*. I haven't read it yet, but....

Posted by: karlof1 | Mar 16 2020 0:54 utc | 49

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karlof1 | Mar 16 2020 0:38 utc | 46 Goin' fishin' ! Best idea yet...and ifin there is a real war, no license and no limit (which is a very old Far Side cartoon some may remember). I miss my boat an fishing off the assend at the marine, sippin tequila with the dog, hoping the Union would not call. Sometime I'll find a picture an' do the media to yer vk.

I have an old bevel-gear-head drill press flat belt drive on the work table...it's repairable, but it's mostly art conservation. I'll work on that and perhaps do some work on the old Harley (also up on a table)...also art conservation. The drill press must weigh 400 or 500 pounds, and I have to lay it over...tricky for an old guy working alone.

XYL n' me didn't have to buy much, we've never bought the con since...I dunno, watching occupied buildings demolished by explosives in a vast dog n pony show...after that, shame on the fella that believes 'em.

Since it's fishing and not theater, I can wish you the best of luck with the fish - I used to spear corbina in the surf...

Best of Luck!

Posted by: Walter | Mar 16 2020 1:02 utc | 50

Pepe's take is almost axiomatic after you read the stuff I've mentioned about biowar 'gainst Korea/China. Like I've posed before, "ok the Policy began in 41 to go "industrial" with the germs, and began attacks on Asian mainland 01 Jan 1952...so, ok, but when did this end?" Can't seem to discover that date...and it does not seem to exist, ie it continues...

Posted by: Walter | Mar 16 2020 1:09 utc | 51

Posted by: Circe | Mar 15 2020 23:12 utc | 34

He was NEVER tried for those crimes! Therefore he deserves to suffer, injustice or whatever! I don't give a shet about his type's due process[.]

Circe, you don't give a shit about his type's due process !! With that mindset, I surmise you would also proffer doctors should refuse to treat the accused and/or the indicted.

SOS, It's a very short one-leg hop unto the "Tyranny is Good" train.

And then, *"because I did not care they came for me, said Circe."*

@ Walter 36

then as one who has been taught law, you are aware of 'Construct' - the framing of a submission. It all depends on the construct of the pardon.

And, on the "a pardon is like a gift that can be refused" - see *Burdick v US* (236 US 79) followed by *Biddle v Perovich* (274 US 480) which began the reversal of so-called "acceptance doctrine."

One can be pardoned if he or she has been found to have been indicted and charged under prosecutorial misdeeds; in General Flynn's case the FBI altered the 302 report, it was a setup - culpable evidence of his innocence; the evidence that he did not lie to the FBI.

Specific to General Flynn: accepting a pardon would not be an admission of guilt.

On Pardons: Article at Wikipedia which needs to be improved.

> In *some jurisdictions of some nations,* accepting a pardon may *implicitly* constitute an admission of guilt; the offer is refused in some cases. Cases of wrongful conviction are in recent times more often dealt with by appeal rather than by pardon; however, a pardon is sometimes offered when innocence is undisputed in order to avoid the costs that are associated with a retrial.
>
> On the other hand
>
> "Pardons are sometimes seen as a mechanism for combating corruption, allowing a particular authority to circumvent **a flawed judicial process to free someone that is seen as wrongly convicted."** (emphasis added)

Actually, Flynn has a strong case for remedy in the $$$millions.

@ james 37

in an ocean of chaos and shenanigans I have to remain optimistic.

@ Petri Krohn 47

Swedish officials decided on March 12th to stop providing statistics on confirmed cases of the new coronavirus disease.

Very difficult to do. See by country COVID-19 Live Updates. Here for the 157 countries and territories around the world -includes the Diamond Princess.

TOTAL Sweden: 1,040

Sweden has 79 new cases: 3 deaths 1 New death 1 Recovered 1036 Active Cases 2 Critical

Posted by: Likklemore | Mar 16 2020 1:21 utc | 52

From the wikipedia entry for Remdesivir

"Preliminary results were promising and it was used in the emergency setting during the Kivu Ebola epidemic that started in 2018 along with further clinical trials, until August 2019, when Congolese health officials announced that it was significantly less effective than monoclonal antibody treatments such as mAb114 and REGN-EB3. The trials, however, established its safety profile'

Safety profile of Remdesivir established by August 2019. 2019 Military World Games in Wuhan October 18th-27th...
China asking US about patient zero, and how long has the virus been in US...
US showing little concern for early preparation...
US government meetings on the pandemic classified...
Remdesivir co developed by US military and US company...

The pros and cons are starting to lean towards bio-weapon. Time will tell.

Posted by: Peter AU1 | Mar 16 2020 1:32 utc | 53

Mina #21

Perfidious Albion needs herding into stability and there is some irony that it is a virus, again. Oh great warrior Albion may you Mount your steed and save the empire. Ho Ho Ho

Posted by: uncle tungsten | Mar 16 2020 1:36 utc | 54

@ karlof1 | Mar 16 2020 0:54 utc | 49 with the link to interview with Michael Hudson together with Ellen Brown....EXCELLENT!

Here is the link again

Our Neo-Feudal System Is on the Verge of Collapse

Posted by: psychohistorian | Mar 16 2020 1:51 utc | 55

@ Peter AU1 | Mar 16 2020 1:32 utc | 52 (your) " The pros and cons are starting to lean towards bio-weapon. Time will tell."

I hope time tells. Would remark, it seems that if from BSL4 lab anywhere is weapon (Boyle). At lest that would be a best assumption to be disproved if possible.

The distinction here, that you moot, is two, maybe three or four things, 1) is it a weapon? 2) is it attack with weapon? 3) who is attacked 4) by whom?

I am sure the Chinese see the matter pretty clearly, and hope their responses are non-emotional. That they're saying what they've said seems to imply that they may design to create the public demand - emotional demand - in order to enter into a new phase of conflict with the putative attacker...eg violence of some indirect and ambiguous character, or perhaps of a more blunt nature.

As you say, Time will tell.

Yeah, several of the questions have obvious answers.

Posted by: Walter | Mar 16 2020 1:53 utc | 56

Posted by: karlof1 | Mar 15 2020 23:01 utc | 30

I share with you my deepest sympathy on the loss of your Mom. Be comforted, *she will always be with you*. Consider this; her precious blood runs throw your veins and her light remains. It's the ending of a life but the relationship remains strong, never to be broken. This is what sustains me...... I loss my Mom, she died before my 4th birthday.

Yes, the criminal elites remain seemingly free. The top-of-the-heap in my view is Kissinger and holding the bottom up is Obama's killing spree.

We should not allow due process to be denied even unto the worst because some criminals run free. It is a slippery slope.

Karma is another lady of Justice. She may be slow to act. Be confident, trust in her.

Posted by: Likklemore | Mar 16 2020 1:55 utc | 57

Wow! Hudson shows up at 11 March Unz Review. I haven't read it yet, but....
Posted by: karlof1 | Mar 16 2020 0:54 utc | 49
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Thanks for this find. Excellent discussion with Michael Hudson and Ellen Brown. Two people with slightly different viewpoints but both interested in the economy being for the people instead of the banks.

Poor people are very limited now in banking options and end up paying exorbitant fees if they can get an account at all or otherwise are subjected to payday lending abuses.

More people are now clearly wondering how the Fed can come up with 1.5 trillion at the drop of a hat for Wall Street but we need to cut social security and can't have good medical and educational programs.
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""Right now, the Fed has provided $4 trillion of Quantitative Easing credit to the banks, not to put into the economy but only to inflate the stock and bond market and make housing more expensive. Wouldn’t it be much better to provide credit to community banks that actually would make credit available for productive economic purposes – and not for takeover loans, stock buybacks and asset speculation?""

""I think you have to expose the fact that what's happened is artificial state intervention. What we have in the name of free market support of the banks is not a free market at all. It's a highly centralized market to support the predatory financial sector's wealth against the rest of the economy. The financial sector's wealth takes the form of credit to the rest of the economy, extracting interest and amortization, while making loans simply to increase asset prices for real estate and financial securities, not put new means of production in place to employ labor. So you have to go beyond the public banking issue as such, and look at the political context. Ultimately, the way that you defend public banking is to show how the economy works and how public banking could play a positive role in the economy as it should work.""

""There is a fight of the economy's unproductive sector against people who want to use credit in a productive way that actually helps the economy. I think it's a fight between good and evil, at least between the productive and unproductive economy, between economics for the people and economics for the One Percent.""

Posted by: financial matters | Mar 16 2020 2:02 utc | 58

@ Petri Krohn 47

Sweden's stats: Latest Updates and Live statistics interactive by country/ age/ sex/critical cases/active cases/deaths/recovered for COVID-19 now affecting the 157 countries - here:

worldometers.info

It's a trusted source. To embed the link disappears the comment.

Posted by: Likklemore | Mar 16 2020 2:07 utc | 59

Other commenters have written about the actions of the US Fed today and I am going to add my perspective.

We are starting this "crash" in a worse position than when we came out of the 2008 crash. The patient has been kept alive by extraordinary measures because a war could not be created and now the propaganda machine has connected the financial crash to the COVID-19 "pandemic".
In Powell's words today,
"The coronavirus outbreak has harmed communities and disrupted economic activity in many countries, including the United States. Global financial conditions have also been significantly affected. Available economic data show that the U.S. economy came into this challenging period on a strong footing. "

So, what folks need to understand is that there will be a big difference perhaps between the manipulated economic/death effects of COVID-19 and what those effects might have been with being tied to a long expected economic downturn.

I have not been able to find another story covering Trump's talk about renegotiating the US debt but would appreciate others links.....I have written for some time that the global debt situation and Trump defaulting on US debt happening in first term and maybe Trump is proving me correct.

Posted by: psychohistorian | Mar 16 2020 2:10 utc | 60

2015-2019 ROAD TO CORONA

November 9, 2015 Ralph Baric of UNC and Shi Zhengli jointly published a study on their efforts to engineer a virus with the surface protein of the SHC014 coronavirus, found in horseshoe bats in China, and the backbone of one that causes human-like severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) in mice.
Funding for this project was from the DoD

2015 The Wuhan Institute of Virology opens the first biosafety level 4 (BSL–4) laboratory to be built in mainland China. Shih Zhengli Having helped build a hyper-virulent coronavirus from scratch at UNC - just so happens to be working at this lab that also just so happens to be at the epicenter of an outbreak involving a coronavirus

2015 MERS From May to July , a large outbreak of MERS initiated by an infected traveler from the Arabian Peninsula swept South Korea and resulted in 186 confirmed cases and 38 deaths.

2015 Charlie Hebdo Paris Terror in January followed by October attacks blamed on Islamic State. France declares war on Islamic State. War in Syria escalated

2016-Bill Gates in speech says Population can be reduced by up to 15% with new vaccines, healthcare and reproductive management. If healthcare and vaccines work to increase population due to longer life expectancy, why not just say reproductive management. Of course, the simple answer is vaccines and healthcare are intended to reduce some combination of fertility and life expectancy. Health care of course can be adverse if its too expensive, rationed, and/or if treatments and drugs used are harmful. Vaccines can be used to promote infertility with contaminants like bcg (documented) and debilitating lifelong illnesses in childhood that prevent them from having children as adults.

Reproductive management may include making parenthood too expensive by reducing standard of living through stagnant wages, underemployment, taxes, reducing economic independence through debt (student loans, mortgages) and increasing the costs of child care (vaccine costs, tuition, etc)

Life expectancy has already begun its decline in the US/UK and fertility rates are below replacement level in non-immigrant populations of North America, Europe and much of Asia

2016- iD2020 alliance established, funded by Bill Gates and others. A strategic, global initiative launched in response to the Sustainable Development Goal 16.9: “provide legal identity to all, including birth registration, by 2030”, in collaboration with the United Nations Office for Partnerships.

2016-The Insect Allies program was announced by DARPA in 2016. It is a research project that aims to protect the U.S. agricultural food supply by delivering protective genes to plants via insects, which are responsible for the transmission of most plant viruses. Scientists believe loading the bugs up with viruses that would offer plants protective benefits could be one way of ensuring food security in the event of a major threat. However, a group of researchers led by Richard Guy Reeves, from the Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Biology in Germany, says Insect Allies isn't exactly what it says it is. Instead, they claim DARPA is potentially developing insects as a means of delivering a "new class of biological weapon."

2017-World Bank issues 300 million in Pandemic Bonds. Default triggered should a pandemic be declared before July 2020. Gates funded WHO declares Pandemic on March 11-2020 after over 110,000 cases, in over 110 countries. Note all the 11's here

2017- CEPI was founded in Davos by the governments of Norway and India, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the Wellcome Trust, and the World Economic Forum in 2017. Its mission is to stimulate and accelerate the development of vaccines against emerging infectious diseases and enable access to these vaccines for people during outbreaks.

The CEO is the former director of BARDA (U.S. Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority (BARDA), part of the HHS Office. The director is an ex employee of the world bank.

2017-December. The National Institutes of Health announced that it is lifting a funding pause dating back to October 2014 on gain-of-function (GOF) experiments involving influenza, SARS, and MERS viruses. GOF research is important in helping us identify, understand, and develop strategies and effective countermeasures against rapidly evolving pathogens that pose a threat to public health.

2017- Documents released under FOIA show DARPA has become the world's largest funder of "gene drive" research. It is investing $100m in genetic extinction technologies that could wipe out malarial mosquitoes, invasive rodents or OTHER SPECIES,

2018- DARPA's Preventing Emerging Pathogenic Threats, or PREEMPT program was announced in April PREEMPT focuses specifically on animal reservoirs of disease, specifically bats. DARPA's announcement for PREEMPT came just a few months after the U.S. government decided to end a moratorium on so-called "gain-of-function" studies involving dangerous pathogens.

Duke is a key partner of DARPA's Pandemic Prevention Platform (P3) program, which officially aims "to dramatically accelerate discovery, integration, pre-clinical testing, and manufacturing of medical countermeasures against infectious diseases." The first step of the Duke/DARPA program involves the discovery of potentially threatening viruses and "develop[ing] methods to support viral propagation, so that virus can be used for downstream studies."

Duke University is also jointly partnered with China’s Wuhan University, which is based in the city where the current coronavirus outbreak began, which resulted in the opening of the China-based Duke Kunshan University (DKU) in 2018. Notably, China’s Wuhan University — in addition to its partnership with Duke — also includes a multi-lab Institute of Medical Virology that has worked closely with the US Army Medical Research Institute for Infectious Diseases since the 1980s.

2018 DARPA spent $10 million on one project “to unravel the complex causes of bat-borne viruses that have recently made the jump to humans.

2018 Shi Zhengli publishes a study reporting the discovery of 89 new “novel bat coronavirus” strains that use the same receptor as the coronavirus known as Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS).

That study was jointly funded by the Chinese government’s Ministry of Science and Technology, USAID — an organization long alleged to be a front for U.S. intelligence, and the U.S. National Institute of Health — which has collaborated with both the CIA and the Pentagon on infectious disease and bioweapons research

2019-A study that discovered still more new strains of “novel bat coronavirus” . Titled “Discovery and Characterization of Novel Bat Coronavirus Lineages from Kazakhstan,” focused on “the bat fauna of central Asia, which link China to eastern Europe” and the novel bat coronavirus lineages discovered during the study were found to be “closely related to bat coronaviruses from China, France, Spain, and South Africa, suggesting that co-circulation of coronaviruses is common in multiple bat species with overlapping geographical distributions.”

The study was entirely funded by the U.S. Department of Defense, specifically the Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA) as part of a project investigating coronaviruses similar to MERS.

Some of the study’s authors are affiliated with Duke University.
Duke University’s involvement with this study is also interesting given that Duke is a key partner of DARPA’s Pandemic Prevention Platform (P3) program, which officially aims “to dramatically accelerate discovery, integration, pre-clinical testing, and manufacturing of medical countermeasures against infectious diseases.” The first step of the Duke/DARPA program involves the discovery of potentially threatening viruses and “develop[ing] methods to support viral propagation, so that virus can be used for downstream studies.”

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Probably thats what gave Dean Koontz his idea for a novel centered around the Wuhan-400 virus.

July 18, 2019 .The CDC sent a cease and desist order to USAMRIID concerning the Fort Detrick laboratory. USAMRIID would not return to fully operational status until meeting benchmark requirements for biosafety. USAMRIID had been working on modified biosafety level 3 procedures and a new decontamination system since flooding in May 2018. USAMRIID scientists were also working with the Ebola virus in a biosafety level 4 lab. Partially reopens in November with embedded CDC researchers. Nice cover story.

September 20, 2019 - ID2020 and partners launch program to provide digital ID with vaccines

October 18, 2019 Bill Gates funded study of Event 201 at Hopkins University simulating a pandemic eerily similar to Wuhan Virus. Attended by George Gao of China CDC

November 1, 2019 -China turned on its 5G network covering some 50 cities, including Wuhan

Wuhan City, the capital of Hubei, is expected to have 10,000 5G base stations by the end of 2019, said Song Qizhu, head of Hubei Provincial Communication Administration.

China Telecom has established a 5G network covering airports, railway stations and other areas in the city, which will also help boost the digital and intelligent transformation of the industries with 5G technologies, said Li Hongbo, general manager of the company's Hubei branch.

China Mobile Hubei Branch has activated 1,580 5G base stations in the city as of mid-October, achieving the 5G coverage of universities, transportation hubs and other densely populated areas, according to the branch."

November 7, 2019 -Bill Gates predicted a coronavirus-style pandemic would sweep the population in a Netflix documentary , in episode titled Next Pandemic.

The Microsoft tycoon talked about a virus breaking out as a result of a virus forming in one of China's wet markets – just like the one in Wuhan where coronavirus is alleged to have originated. In the episode, titled The Next Pandemic, producers visit a wet market in Lianghua, China, where animals are killed and their meat is sold in the same place. 'All the while, their viruses are mixing and mutating, increasing the odds that one finds its way to humans,' the documentary explains.

November 17, 2019 -Retrospective studies point to this date when the first COVID-19 patient was treated in Wuhan

November 20 2019 . A patent is approved related to coronavirus vaccines is owned by Pirbright Institute (formerly the Institute for Animal Health) which is partially owned or funded by the Gates foundation.

Posted by: Pft | Mar 16 2020 2:27 utc | 61

Fed slashes rate to near zero (ZIRP):

The Fed slashes rates to near-zero

This is "near-zero" in name only: in real terms, interests in the USA already are in virtual negative territory. It's literally knee and pray now.

But the better news came right after that. Looks like Hong Kong is going to jump to the abyss with the Americans, reducing its rate to 0.86%. Talk about a good poodle.

The war against the liberals of Hong Kong - if you want to name that child's stuff a war - was already over. But now victory will not only be military, it will also be ideological to the Communists.

There's no other way against the capitalists: first you have to destroy their body, then their spirit. The fact that the Mainland easily gave up one third of its industrial output tells us they were very far from their break point after months and months of unconventional warfare against the tiny Hongkongers. With the siege on and their savior on their knees (the USA), they'll hang themselves now. If I were a Wuhanian, I would enjoy my time in quarantine with some popcorn and the SCMP. Good entertainment.

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Italy had a 25% jump in deaths today, which leaves it at more than 1,800 deaths. At this rate, they'll pass China in absolute number of deaths, too (they've already passed in the ratio).

Posted by: vk | Mar 16 2020 2:30 utc | 62

There's now a **fourth** OPCW whistleblower corroborating the allegations of A and B: Exclusive: New OPCW whistleblower slams 'abhorrent mistreatment' of Douma investigators (*The Grayzone*, March 12, 2020).

Posted by: S | Mar 16 2020 2:51 utc | 63

You may remember Peter Koenig. He writes for RT, Press TV & many others. He has written the most important Corona article yet. It even covers the banned Cuban medicine that has helped the Chinese reduce fatalities.

https://www.globalresearch.ca/coronavirus-causes-effects-real-danger-agenda-id2020/5706153

Posted by: Penelope | Mar 16 2020 3:58 utc | 64

Posted by: Peter AU1 | Mar 15 2020 22:59 utc | 29

karlof1 26 "what might China do at its end of the supply chain to exact retribution"

Referring to your key word's ***"supply chain to exact retribution"*** changing the subject/topic from oil to coronavirus. If China now holding ace cards producing basic raw materials for countless drugs, antibiotic, masks, medical equipments and head start in Covid-19. I hope she (China) would be the first to patent the anti-virus or drug to combats this deathly virus(s). I'm not for exact retribution but if USA, Brit and Swiss Pharmaceuticals companies did it before China, China and the rest of the world - would pay billions. Many many lives saving drugs for HIV, Insulin and others...

Everyone knows USA is determined to bring China to its knees and beg for mercy, just as she did in 41' and again in the 70's to Japan and more recently Russia Federation, Iran, Syria, Cuba, Venezuela and...

However, I believe China will never and should **NOT**, exact retribution to the USA as USA did to China, examples: Huawei, ZTE, Hong Kong riots, Xinjiang, Tiananmen Square (all these were debunks in various progressive's websites..)

Excuse my Eng.

Posted by: JC | Mar 16 2020 4:24 utc | 65

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psychohistorian @54--

Here're two very key paragraphs from that interview I'm going to provide without further context, trusting that those sincerely interested will go to the article and read:

"Wall Street very quickly developed a counter strategy to this. And the counter strategy was the Federal Reserve. You're welcome to republish my article on your site. You and I both aim to reverse the counterrevolution mounted against classical economics and social democracy. The entity you're talking about would probably be under the aegis of the Treasury. You'd be putting the economy back in the direction that the world was moving before World War I derailed these efforts.

"You talk of nationalizing the Fed. I know people don't like the word nationalizing. How about thing de-privatizing or de-Thatcherizing the Fed? You have to represent the Fed as having stolen economic and financial policy away from the public domain. It became part of the neoliberal project taking form in Austria in the 1930s. You're trying to restore the classical economic vision of productive versus unproductive credit, productive versus unproductive labor, and public money as opposed to private money. These distinctions were erased by the censorial neoliberal counter-revolution. It's not that you're radical, that these people had a radical revolution to carve away the financial system from democracy. And you're restoring the classical vision of democratizing, re-democratizing finance and banking."

Before anything resembling actual Socialism's attempted within the Outlaw US Empire, the "management" of its economy must be wrested away from the Banksters--The Money Power. That's why you never hear/read Hudson talk about even trying to establish Socialism. We must regain control first and foremost.

Posted by: karlof1 | Mar 16 2020 4:40 utc | 66

Posted by: Mina | Mar 15 2020 22:04 utc | 21

Worse fears coming true: in Austria, they don't let you go out with a person of your choice just alone or with the persons you live with!

I will end up believing BoJo is right and we should let the herd stabilize.

Where it comes to that level of anti-human totalitarianism (which, if they institute for any significant length of time, they will strongly resist rolling back at any point going forward), the "cure" is worse than the disease.

Posted by: Peter AU1 | Mar 15 2020 22:46 utc | 24

Mina 21

I guess that depends on whether you veiw people as domestic animals or communities.
My thought is that if we are communities then the old and young, weak and sick should be looked after rather simply being left behind when they can't keep up. Similar to a family group only larger.

Mina said nothing against looking after the community. On the contrary, any kind of community participation and action is directly contradicted by the radically anti-social program of locking down in physical isolation, not going out unless you "need" to ("need" being defined by the criminal state), and only with people the state authorizes.

How on earth could it be possible for community to function under such conditions? On the contrary, that's nothing but an escalation of the long-term anti-community vector of the economic system, its long-term project to destroy all community.

On the other hand, implicit support for the state's herding mechanisms, in the name of controlling the pandemic when we already know that just like with everything else the state mindset is about controlling the people, is the epitome of viewing people as domestic animals. As indeed all too many are by now, by their own self-reinforced indoctrination.

Posted by: Russ | Mar 16 2020 5:29 utc | 67

For those French, there was a new book published in October 2017. Asterix and Obelix are racing through Italy against the new villains Coronavirus and his sidekick Bacillus on an eagle chariot pulled by the four horses with omega blankets.
https://twitter.com/asterixofficiel/status/917291558889811968/photo/1

The Plot: Responding to criticism of the “deplorable” condition of Roman roads in the regions, Senator Lactus Bifidus proposes a chariot race across the Italic Peninsula to showcase the “excellent” roads. The race is open to all people of the known world. Julius Caesar endorses the race but insists that a Roman must win for the sake of unity across the Italic Peninsula. Otherwise, Bifidus will be exiled to Cyrenaica (now Libya).

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Asterix_and_the_Chariot_Race

Really weird. Anyone have any insights on this?

Posted by: krollchem | Mar 16 2020 5:54 utc | 68

Russ 66
Read Mina's piece again. This is what I was replying to.
"I will end up believing BoJo is right and we should let the herd stabilize."

Posted by: Peter AU1 | Mar 16 2020 7:12 utc | 69

Peter AU1 | Mar 16 2020 7:12 utc | 68

I did read it the first time. As you saw, I quoted it.

I read Mina as saying in an ironic way that if the system's notion of containing the pest is to go to such knee-jerk counter-evidence anti-social extremes which just happen to dovetail so perfectly with the whole neoliberal/police state agenda (funny how it always works out exactly that way, never in any other way), better to just have the government do nothing.

I did not read her as actually endorsing such a fake either-or. I think you're the one who misread it.

Posted by: Russ | Mar 16 2020 7:36 utc | 70

Russ
You didn't bother to quote what I was replying to and which I brought to your attention @69.
You playing at being a clown or something.

Posted by: Peter AU1 | Mar 16 2020 8:10 utc | 71

I am just puzzled, that's it. Are we going to pay for neo-liberals measures which have resulted in under-staffing and under-funding hospitals (and pensions by the way; I am still waiting for stats but it seems the rich DO NOT DIE from it, cf. politicians infected -10 MPs in France- or the German excellent hospitals resulting in very little dead all in all).
Somehow the elephant in the room is what the kids of Extinction rebellion have been pointing at for a year: Capitalism kills. They don't buy anymore. Our MSM are still trying not to connect the dots, but you can hear anchors wondering why cruises have been going on, why the one-week long agriculture fair in Paris went on, why planes of tourists have been spreading to the 4 corners of the world.
I would advocate that we do need to restrict traveling, e.g. a limited number of plane tickets per year, depending whether it is for holidays or you have family in another place. It is not popular for sure, but it is also not popular with the capitalists, who have managed to create this fully integrated system which cannot survive one grain of sand for a second. They would be the first to say that if we had canceled cruises since 2 months all these poor countries they dock in would not have benefited from the tourists money. But who believes that this is sustainable?
Authoritarian countries are what they are because of their history, imo, i.e. South-East Asia and its wide sea opening + wet weather + huge populations has had to deal with epidemics for centuries in a much harsher way that we spoiled kids in windy open plains and a relatively dry climate.

I think sustainability and accountability are the keywords. I hope people now bored at home for weeks will have time to realize that and start thinking how to reclaim power from the globalized elite who need 3 appartments to live and intensive air traveling for their leisure.

Posted by: Mina | Mar 16 2020 8:18 utc | 72

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typo: they don't buy it anymore

Question: any info on how the zero hour contracts uberized workers kids working in cars etc are going to pay their rents in UK, NL, DE etc? In France it seems that if the person has a contract, employees will get 100 percent of their pay but temporary contracts only 80. That still leaves the self-employed (ca 1 million ppl in France and same in the Netherlands and Belgium)

Posted by: Mina | Mar 16 2020 8:24 utc | 73

Peter AU1 | Mar 16 2020 8:10 utc | 71

Russ
You didn't bother to quote what I was replying to and which I brought to your attention @69.
You playing at being a clown or something.

Anyone can read my #67 right there in black and white, I quoted it. Then in #70 I explained further what I meant.

I have no idea what kind of clown you're playing at, but you clearly have no response to my points.

Posted by: Russ | Mar 16 2020 8:25 utc | 74

Peter 24
I agree. I just say that let's take the money where it is available (Defense budget anyone?). But I also see that all hospitals appointments deemed not super-urgent have been canceled in a number of EU countries, including mine (not because they are already overwhelmed I suspect but because they protect their medics from being infected by CV and therefore on home sick... i.e. medics are strategic resource; military planning again is the one functional thing in their system).
Cancelling all appointments means that if you are in an early stage of cancer and you were going through explorations and analyses, you will have to wait for 1-3 months.
Is that fair?

Posted by: Mina | Mar 16 2020 8:29 utc | 75

Mina 72

If only all the people now resorting to a simplified state under the pest's duress would take that to heart and realize this is not only a much better way of life as such, but also a far healthier and resilient way in the face of the many imminent inevitable crises.

What's happening now is yet another shot across the bow. Humanity can choose the healthy, sane path. The possibilities are there, and if humanity chooses against them, chooses the hardest path possible to endure the necessary and inevitable (the Earth is beginning to insist), it will have only itself to blame.

From an FB comment on the link below:

I was talking to another resident here yesterday about the lockdown in her home country of Italy - empty supermarket shelves, closed cinemas, schools, theatres - and her friends are saying What a blessing!

That for the first time in their memory, they are not being pushed by bosses, teachers, friends, colleagues to achieve achieve achieve ...

Instead they are being encouraged to stay home, rest, reflect, stop consuming ...

https://qz.com/1812670/a-design-trends-forecaster-calls-the-coronavirus-an-amazing-grace-for-the-planet/

“I think we should be very grateful for the virus because it might be the reason we survive as a species.”

...the celebrated 69-year old design industry advisor pictured Covid-19 as a sobering force that will temper our consumerist appetites and jet-setting habits.

"We need to find new values—values of simple experience, of friendship,” she told Quartz. “It might just turn the world around for the better.”

“The virus will slow down everything,” Edelkoort notes. “We will see an arrest in the making of consumer goods. That is terrible and wonderful because we need to stop producing at such a pace. We need to change our behavior to save the environment. It’s almost as if the virus is an amazing grace for the planet.”

Being confined to our own towns or cities could foster a revival of cottage industries and an appreciation for locally made goods, she says. “There are so many possibilities,” Edelkoort says.

Posted by: Russ | Mar 16 2020 8:30 utc | 76

By the way, Austria has an extreme-right gov at the moment. It was supposed to be a 'mild extreme-right' but it does not seem like it anymore. What I find annoying is that if you consider you are not among the people at risk and you want to go out with friends to a park, you should be allowed to. France's politicians today were complaining that the parks were full of people yesterday enjoying the sun!! In other countries they want to enforce the 1,5 meter distance between people on the street and in supermarkets! I mean, either you know you are at risk and you stay home -and the state should arrange you get free deliveries- either you are not! After all, public transports and supermarkets are still running and the workers there do not get extra money for being at risk! EU hypocrisy or its mere stupidity is bottom-less.

Posted by: Mina | Mar 16 2020 9:16 utc | 77

(I should have added: in Berlin they have banned private gatherings of more than 50 persons. Not sure if it applies to the rest of Germany)

Posted by: Mina | Mar 16 2020 9:16 utc | 78

Mina on various control measures, banning crowds ect, I will wait till this is over before making any judgment. In some or perhaps most countries there will be some dumb rules put in place at times by various incompetent bureaucrats but that's the case with anything.

Is this solid or your take on what will be canceled. Possible cancer seems like a life threatening issue to me.
"Cancelling all appointments means that if you are in an early stage of cancer and you were going through explorations and analyses, you will have to wait for 1-3 months."

Posted by: Peter AU1 | Mar 16 2020 9:33 utc | 79

@ Pft # 32 & 41 & 61

Thank you so much was making the effort to share your collection of data re the new virus. It's absolutely worth a read, even if it's a fairly long read.
And it strongly supports @VERITAS X statement "I don't believe in coincidences"
Nor do I.

Posted by: Paleene | Mar 16 2020 9:44 utc | 80

When they do the analyses they are not sure yet you have cancer. A lot (most?) of the explorations are related to checking if it is cancer or not. They have canceled ultrasounds and colonoscopies, e.g.

Posted by: Mina | Mar 16 2020 9:45 utc | 81

PFT @ all your above work
Thanks for your time and trouble posting this ! Much appreciated. This is the level of dialogue we need now. The people controlling our health, live and safety in this serious time are psychopaths.

Posted by: Mark2 | Mar 16 2020 10:01 utc | 82

Here's a dissenting take from a scientist. ("Stuart A. Newman, Ph.D. is a professor of cell biology and anatomy at New York Medical College")

The 1918 "Spanish" flu pandemic killed upwards of 50 million people worldwide. Of the half-million estimated deaths in the U.S., 92% were under 65, and a full half were between 20 and 40 years old.

The best theory for this selective impact comes from a research group at the University of Arizona, who note that this cohort was exposed to a virus with related properties that circulated around 1900, when they were children that (instead of protecting them) primed their immune systems to respond to the later virus in an inappropriate and damaging fashion. Older people severely affected by COVID-19 also exhibit such immune hyper-reactivity, suggesting that they may have been primed by a pathogen exposure in the 1950s, before the less vulnerable population was born.

So, while old people must strenuously avoid being infected regardless of their current health status, for everyone else, particularly young adults and children, a different policy should be in effect. Vaccination is the safest way to establish "herd immunity," the condition in which the general population is largely resistant to an infection, and its members, even if they become infected, are therefore incapable of spreading it. Until there is a vaccine for COVID-19, however, the only route to herd immunity is for those who can be infected without getting sick, become so.

That's why closing schools, colleges, theaters, museums, etc. is a bad idea. Of course, older people (including faculty over 60, who could teach by videolink) should stay away from all of these, but young people could attend and participate with little effect. Shutting down these facilities is less a benefit to public health than to the legal exposure of their owners and administrators. Certainly, attendees would become COVID-19-positive, but they mainly would be oblivious to it. They would need to be warned to keep their distance from their elderly relatives, and vice-versa, but this applies to the prevailing shut-down regime as well

https://www.counterpunch.org/2020/03/16/why-covid-19-is-such-a-threat-to-the-60-plus-population-and-why-the-response-may-make-it-worse/

Posted by: Russ | Mar 16 2020 10:23 utc | 83

Zero Anthropolgy worth reading for a review of 2019.

Posted by: uncle tungsten | Mar 16 2020 10:37 utc | 84

In the same way that enough Americans for a quorum have accepted a permanent state of partial lockdown and police state encroachment since 9/11, if the federal government were now to order a much more comprehensive lockdown and restrictions on movement and gatherings, allegedly "temporary" for the duration of the pandemic, but then this pandemic turned out to be as open-ended from the point of view of government policy as the "global war on terror" has been, and the lockdown became as effectively permanent, who would object? Who would resist?

Certainly no one would deny the US government would like to impose such a totalitarian system.

Posted by: Russ | Mar 16 2020 10:44 utc | 85

RE: Paleene | Mar 16 2020 9:44 utc @ 80 & @ Pft # 32 & 41 & 61

Thanks soo much. Both of You-2.
I can assure everyone, I'm not an alarmist.
The wife is today in Uppsala @UAS-Akademiska Sjukhuset.
https://duckduckgo.com/?t=ffcm&q=UAS-Akademiska+Sjukhuset&ia=web
She has been in the *Lednings Gruppen-Lab* for many years now.
It will be interesting to hear what she has to say....
X-

Posted by: Veritas X- | Mar 16 2020 10:51 utc | 86

Bill Mitchell is also in the same vein as Michael Hudson and Ellen Brown although slightly different in the details..
http://bilbo.economicoutlook.net/blog/?p=44507

""The coronavirus comes on top of already growing dissent over the failure of mainstream economic policy. It will redefine what governments can do with their obvious fiscal capacity and will demonstrate once-and-for-all the lies that the mainstream economists tell about deficits, inflation, interest rates, etc. It will categorically demonstrate the capacity of the currency-issuer. All that will lay the foundation for a better future, if we get beyond this current malaise.""

Posted by: financial matters | Mar 16 2020 11:01 utc | 87

A few more recent Bill Mitchell blogs

http://bilbo.economicoutlook.net/blog/?p=44484

""The coronavirus outbreak is one of those events that emphasises the interdependence between the demand and supply sides of the economy. It is a supply shock – in that it has reduced the growth in output supply as firms stop producing because their workforces are quarantined. And that shock then feeds into a demand impact as the laid off workers lose incomes and reduce their spending accordingly. However, there is also a separate demand shock associated with the crisis, quite apart from the supply impetus. The fear and uncertainty associated with a possible pandemic has meant that consumers are altering their spending patterns rather quickly with airline travel and other such activities falling sharply. So this is a very special type of calamity that doesn’t fit the usual types of shocks that economies endure. And as a consequence, it makes the task of designing an economic policy response rather more difficult. But make no mistake. Fiscal deficits will have to rise substantially for an extended period and governments will have to do things they have never really contemplated before if a deep recession is to be avoided. This is Part 1 of a two-part series of my current assessment of the coronavirus crisis, or whatever you want to call it.""

and

http://bilbo.economicoutlook.net/blog/?p=44488

""This complex economic shock is also exposing the structural weaknesses of economies that have evolved under neoliberalism to be dependent on consumer debt and casualised, precarious work.Many workers are now without the usual buffers that have helped people risk manage in times of job loss.While some eulogise the ‘freedoms’ of the ‘gig economy’ and young people think of themselves more as entrepreneurs than as workers as they buzz around on motor scooters delivering food to those who can no longer be bothered interrupting their reality TV viewing to venture to the shops, the harsh reality of their insecure positions will be exposed by the coronavirus.An increasing number of workers are now dependent on casual work hours as their main source of income.These hours are the first call by firms seeking to adjust their costs as their sales fall.Most of these workers are low-paid and have little saving. Once they lose their hours, rents become impossible to pay and the precariousness of their true positions in society become obvious.""

""I don’t hold out any confidence that the government will act to even protect the economy from recession.They are too busy trying to wedge the Opposition to come up with a stimulus package that is of a sufficient size and design and **has equity considerations at the forefront.** But it is clear they have the capacity, just as all currency-issuing governments have the capacity, to avoid this crisis.Whether they use that capacity is another matter.""

Posted by: financial matters | Mar 16 2020 11:13 utc | 88

In France hospitals start to be overwhelmed, like in Italy earlier.
Wrong advice given by GPs to ppl 2-3 weeks ago ('stay home so you don't contaminate others and take anti-inflammatories') seem to result in more dangerous cases.
https://www.lemonde.fr/planete/article/2020/03/16/coronavirus-dans-la-region-grand-est-les-hopitaux-vacillent-deja_6033193_3244.html
In a city like Strasbourg, they have 100 beds for intensive care. For a population of 300,000.

Posted by: Mina | Mar 16 2020 11:22 utc | 89

Mina 81

I know here, various regular cancer screening procedures are recommended at intervals. I think colonoscopies was one.

Posted by: Peter AU1 | Mar 16 2020 11:34 utc | 90

Mina @89
Hi Mina.
As a 'layman'/non-professional...cough-cough, I found this extremely informative and ..cough-cough, non-biased.
Si Vous plais. :)
Have You read/seen:
How to treat Coronavirus infection COVID-19 -Interview with the member of the Russian Academy of Science Alexander Chuchalin March 14, 2020
http://thesaker.is/how-to-treat-coronavirus-infection-covid-19/
X-

Posted by: Veritas X- | Mar 16 2020 11:35 utc | 91

@ Posted by: Russ | Mar 16 2020 10:23 utc | 83

Nobody is debating the validity of the herd immunity theory. What's worrying the doctors and governments is to not overwhelm their respective healthcare systems.

Zero people are feeding the illusion the COVID-19 will ever go away. The aim is simply to flatten the curve.

Posted by: vk | Mar 16 2020 11:52 utc | 92

Headline (not the URL)Saudi Aramco reveals whopping 21% profit-drop for 2019 – even before the latest oil crash & 'price war'

Posted by: vk | Mar 16 2020 12:06 utc | 93

Thanks V-x. I am on (auto-medic) Quercetine btw. Had running nose, sneezing when exposed to cold, some head spinning once in a while, for the last 2 weeks. It helps, as do other plants and vitamins, it seems. Might be the common cold, who knows.

Posted by: Mina | Mar 16 2020 12:12 utc | 94

Posted by: Russ | Mar 16 2020 10:44 utc | 85

Observing the US over a long period of time convinces me that no one with any visibility will oppose anything in the US. If they do they will be called communists, terrorists, tree huggers, cult, ... and nicely showed off into the corner. If they get too aggressive FBI has been shown to do a great job with this crowd.

Link

Here is how it looked when done by Canadian Police,
Freedom to protest

MSM will make sure nothing appears on the boob tube, ensuring that the Public imagines that nothing is going on. The yellow vests in France for example do not exist in the Public's mind because they are not in the News. Nothing is going on is the only conclusion reached by the Masses watching BBC/CNN/FOX. Lack of toilet paper is the issue of the day.

Media in the US

Posted by: Tom_LX | Mar 16 2020 12:21 utc | 95

Veritas X-

Thanks for posting the link to that.

The Russian mentions Remdesivir as the most likely antiviral. The drug the US finished testing (side effects and so forth) in August 2019 and developed by US military and a US company... I guess that's why the US have no problems sending their military everywhere.

Posted by: Peter AU1 | Mar 16 2020 12:28 utc | 96

Now may be an opportunity to remove your money from the bank !!
There about to pull the rug out from under our feet ! Do this sooner rather than later. There about to collapse as far as you or I are concerned!
U.K. army are ready to take the streets to stop any rioting and control the prisons ect.

Posted by: Mark2 | Mar 16 2020 12:37 utc | 97

Likklemore | Mar 16 2020 1:21 utc | 52 (pardons)

Thanks...I last read the bar review 50 years ago. I am sure you're correct.

What I had in mind really had nothing to do with Flynn. I was thinking of the principle in international law...where I understand jurisdiction is universal and there is no double jeopardy beyond the principle that the convicted may only be punished once - all of which seems to eclipse domestic law and the idea of a pardon for war crimes.

Behind that, as Power shifts between groups, States, as equilibrium returns in a new post-conflict arrangement, the matters of Justice quite obviously will too. The can be no question of justic save between equals - and the new "equalities" will probably create show trials, even as the disequilibrium does today (Manning, Assange, etc)

Posted by: Walter | Mar 16 2020 12:44 utc | 98

> In France hospitals start to be overwhelmed, like in Italy earlier.
>
> Posted by: Mina | Mar 16 2020 11:22 utc | 89

It was always the case that if the epidemic figures rise exponentially, it will outstrip the availability of Intensive Care beds (réanimation en français). That is true in any Western country, not only Italy, Spain and France. And by the way, I am one of those who will be out of luck, as I've passed the age where my survival is considered of high priority.

Posted by: Laguerre | Mar 16 2020 13:54 utc | 99

Mark2 97. What UK army? What UK police force? The tories have gutted both after 10 years of austerity.

Posted by: Phil E | Mar 16 2020 14:10 utc | 100

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